SOUTHAMPTON AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Tuesday, 4th February 2020 St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street, Southampton

VICTORIAN 2d BLUE GUEST SPEAKER: TONY DAVIS

Present: Julian Jones (President), Mel Bradshaw (Chairman), and 28 Members, as per attached list.

Apologies: Two Apologies had been received

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Chairman welcomed the members to this evening's meeting.
2. There was a set of Minutes from the 7th January 2020 meeting to be approved and signed. These Minutes were approved by the members attending and signed by the Chairman.
3. The membership levels were the same as last month.
4. There was one new member who had paid his subscription but had not yet returned his membership form.

5. Jim Rankin reminded members that he is still collecting names for the Sunday Lunch in May. The venue and cost remain the same as last year. The menu choices would be available at the next meeting.

6. Kevin Chard raised the following points:
   a. The next Thursday meeting will be in the new venue on 13th February.
   b. The next Tuesday meeting will be the Members' Competition Evening. 12 or 16 sheets with a front cover if possible. The competition is informal and the judging is by the members attending. The more entries the better the evening will be.
   c. There will also be a Bourse running during the evening and Lorraine is holding a 'Bring and Buy' sale as well.
   d. The January Auction sales totalled £5,500.
   e. The catalogue for the March Auction is in preparation and anyone still wanting to enter lots needs to do it very urgently, certainly before the weekend

7. Mel Bradshaw said that he would be bringing along material from the Mike Crane collection to the Bourse and more material would be available later on. In particular there could be a postal auction because there was a lot of material with a Norwich / Norfolk connection.

8. Jack Hindson reported that Dave and Cora Edwards had returned early from Hong Kong.

9. The Chairman reminded members that the next Committee Meeting was to be held on Tuesday, 10th March. Any members with items they wanted to be discussed at the meeting should contact either himself or Eddie Mays as secretary.
10. The Chairman also reminded everyone that the AGM would be held on the 21st April. The committee reports would be published ahead of this meeting. There were almost certainly be vacancies for positions on the committee next year and he asked any members who felt they might be able to help either as volunteers for positions or to assist to contact him or the secretary. The health of the society does rely on members helping to run the various functions.
11. The second half of the AGM evening would be 'Acquisitions or Queries'. Any members with new material that fell into either of these categories is invited to bring it along that evening.

12. Finally the pot of raffle prizes is slowly emptying and any members that would like to contribute to the raffle with a prize would be most welcome. Philatelic material is always most welcome but general prizes are also very acceptable.

Julian Jones, as President, then introduced our Guest Speaker Tony Davis who, Julian assured the members, would treat us to a Victorian extravaganza.

Tony introduced his presentation by saying that if it was Victorian, 2d and Blue then it would be on show this evening. He also confessed to having been a member of the Society between 1994 - 1996 when he was in the Royal Navy and working at Vosper's shipyard and the meetings were held at the Polygon.

Part 1
In this part of the presentation Tony dealt with the history of the 2d Blue in great detail. Explaining how the very crude methods of production in the beginning produced all sorts of anomalies. He discussed the differences in the colour of the Maltese Cross cancellations and also the part that was played by Roland Hill in the early days. There were many examples both of original stamps, photo copy enlargements and covers from all of the early plates. He was also keen to emphasise that any collection should be enjoyable and that different examples interested different people. At the end of this section he highlighted the use of thin paper on Plate 4 and the problems that it caused.

REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE

Part 2
For the 2nd part of the evening Tony concentrated mainly on the production of postal stationery. Starting with the Mulready envelopes and with the aid of many examples he showed how there were differences in the control of central production and local production. The latter was mainly when individual companies were allowed to design their own stationery around the postage. Also on display were some of the latest acquisitions to the collection.
The final frames consisted of a varied collection of Commonwealth philatelic material in alphabetical order. The only connection between all of this material was that it was Victorian, 2d and blue.

In thanking our guest speaker Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye said that it had been a delightful evening with a superb display of material that had been very well presented.

In closing the meeting Mel Bradshaw invited all the members to study the display, wished them a safe journey home and said he looked forward to seeing them all in a fortnight's time.

The meeting closed at 20:50 Signed: ……..

Date: ……. Position: …….